GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1093
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
RUBBER PLANTATION
SAMAR CHOUDHURY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to bring 7500 hectares of land under rubber plantation for tribal rehabilitation in Tripura is suffering due to non clearance by his ministry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to release the land?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a)&(b): Ministry, in the year 1992, had received two proposals under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from the Government of Tripura for diversion of 9019.52 ha. and 343.21 ha. of forest land for raising rubber plantations to resettle jhumias. The first proposal for 9019.52 ha. has been considered by the Ministry and in the first phase approval for 1500 ha. has been accorded on 23.12.1997. The balance area is to be considered only after the State Government has successfully raised the rubber plantation in the first phase and a report is submitted to the Ministry. The State Government has not yet send the progress report despite reminders.

The decision on the other proposal for 343.21 ha. has not been possible for want of above mentioned progress report from the State Government.

FR- It`s a Lok Sabha unstarred question by Shri Samar Choudhury regarding `Rubber Plantation` due for reply on 31.7.2000.

In this regard, it is to mention that during the year 1992, two proposals for diversion of forest land admeasuring 9019.52 ha. and 343.21 ha. for raising rubber plantation to resettle tribal jhumias in Tripura were received from the State Government(File no.8-6/92-FC and 8-134/92-FC linked).The first proposal was accorded approval on 23.12.1997 for 1500 ha. under the Forest (Conservation) Act,1980(page 104-105/c of file 8-6/92-FC). The balance area was to be utilised only when the State Government has successfully raised the rubber plantation in the first phase. The State Government has not yet send the progress report despite our request.

The other proposal for 343.21 ha. was discussed by the Forest Advisory Committee on 26.8.93 and as per their recommendations, the State Govt. was asked on 7.9.1993 to furnish year wise phasing programme of raising rubber plantation over 343.21 ha. of forest land and to furnish the details on progress of raising rubber plantation over 1500 ha. of forest land as approved for the first project (page 34/c of file 8-134/92-FC). Reply from State Govt. was received only against our first querry and as such the State Govt. was reminded again. The reply from State Govt. is still awaited.

Based on the above mentioned facts, a draft reply has been prepared and placed below for kind necessary action.